

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6892

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR ET

SUBJECT: ATHENS MEETING ON KAGNEW

REF: STATE 253939; ADDIS 12639

1. ASMARA CONSUL GENERAL SHERRY HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING REPORT ON ATHENS MEETING OCTOBER 29 OF CISCO, NAVCOMMSTA AND CONGEN ASMARA REPS:

A. MEETING HELD, AS SCHEDULED ON OCT. 29 AT NAVCOMMSTA, NEA MAKRI, GREECE. IN ATTENDANCE WERE MESSRS. ROBERT CAULFIELD AND JOHN DALE OF CISCO DALLAS; ROBERT BAKER AND DOUGLAS MCCALISTER OF CISCO ASMARA, CAPT. MCQUILLEN, THE OIC, CDR. EMMERSON, AND LT. LOVE OF NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI; AND MYSELF. CAUFIELD, A CISCO VICE PRESIDENT, OPENED THE MEETING WITH AN ACCOUNT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WASHINGTON ON THE SUBJECT OF CISCO ACTING AS AN INTERMEDIARY WITH THE PLF IN CONNECTION WITH TRYING TO EFFECT THE RELEASE OF CAMPBELL AND HARRELL. AS WE LEARNED FROM THE TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC FROM WASHINGTON, THE INITIAL IMPASSE BETWEEN CISCO AND THE DEPARTMENT WAS RESOLVED AND AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE GUIDANCE SUBSEQUENTLY SENT TO ME (STATE 253939). OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WAS CAULFIELD'S STATEMENT THAT CAMPBELL SR., INCREASINGLY DISSATISFIED WITH WHAT HE REGARDS AS INACTION BY THE USG, HAS MANAGED TO AROUSE CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THE FATE OF THE CISCO TWO, AND

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HAS ALSO MANAGED TO GET THE PARENTS OF BOWIDOWICZ AND

STRICKLAND SUFFICIENTLY INTERESTED TO JOIN HIM IN COMING
TO WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT NEXT WEEK.

B. I THEN GAVE A POLITICAL/SECURITY BRIEFING ON THE ERITREAN
SITUATION.

C. OF FURTHER INTEREST WAS CAULFIELD'S STATEMENT THAT HE
HAD BEEN INFORMED BY ADM. NAGLER, OIC COMNAVTELCOM IN WASH-
INGTON, THAT THE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON THE BASIS OF A
REQUEST FROM STATE TO DOD THAT KAGNEW STATION WAS TO REMAIN
IN OPERATION INDEFINITELY. NAGLER THEN PUT THE QUESTION TO
CISCO AS TO HOW LONG THE NAVY COULD EXPECT THE COMPANY TO
CONTINUE TO MEET THE TERMS OF ITS PRESENT CONTRACT, WHICH
EXPIRES NEXT YEAR, AND WHETHER CISCO COULD BE RELIED UPON
TO PICK UP A FOLLOW-ON CONTRACT. CISCO'S REPLY TO BOTH
QUERIES WAS POSITIVE, SO WE CAN EXPECT CISCO TO REMAIN
AT KAGNEW AS LONG AS THE STATION CONTINUES TO OPERATE.
ON THE QUESTION OF STAFFING THE STATION WHICH IS
NOT A MATTER THAT I CHOSE TO COMMENT ON, AGREEMENT APPEARS
TO HAVE BEEN REACHED ON A LEVEL, INCLUDING FUNDING FOR
NECESSARY OVERTIME, SATISFACTORY BOTH TO THE CONTRACTOR
AND TO THE NAVY.

D. I AM INFORMED BY OIC NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA THAT THREE TO
FOUR DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE NEW CABLE SUPPLIES NOW IN ADDIS,
KAGNEW WILL BE ABLE TO PERFORM ITS SECONDARY MISSION AT A LEVEL
OF APPROXIMATELY 75 PERCENT. IT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PERFORM
ITS PRIMARY MISSION UNTIL DEC. 31 AT EARLIEST.

2. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE
SOONEST. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SHERRY MAKE ONE OF HIS PERIODIC
VISITS TO ADDIS NEXT WEEK AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL HAVE
DEPARTMENT'S THOUGHTS BEFORE HE ARRIVES.

HUMMEL

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